

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing device having a plurality of functions comprising:
 - a detection unit that detects an error in a function among the plurality of functions of the image processing device;
 - a transmission unit that transmits detection result of the detection unit to an external device; and
 - a disabling unit that prevents the function of the image processing device, of which error is detected by the detection unit, from being used in response to instructions received from the external device.
2. The image processing device of claim 1 further including:
 - a reception unit that receives data from an external source;
 - a printing unit that prints out the data received by the reception unit; and
 - a forwarding unit that forwards the data received by the reception unit to the external device when the detection unit detects an error in the printing unit.
3. The image processing device of claim 1 further including a connection unit that connects the image processing device to a plurality of communication lines, and wherein the disabling unit prohibits use of one of the plurality of communication lines when the detection unit detects an error in said one of the plurality of communication lines.
4. The image processing device of claim 1, wherein the external device is a LAN-connected personal computer.

5. The image processing device of claim 2, wherein the external source is a remote facsimile machine, and the data received by the reception unit is facsimile data.

6. The image processing device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of communication lines includes PSTN and LAN.

7. The image processing device of claim 3, wherein the plurality of communication lines includes a plurality of PSTNs.

8. The image processing device of claim 1 further including:
a reception unit that receives data from an external source;
a printing unit that prints out the data received by the reception unit; and
a forwarding unit that forwards the data received by the reception unit to a third device when the detection unit detects an error in the printing unit.

9. The image processing device of claim 8, wherein the external source is a remote facsimile machine, and the data received by the reception unit is facsimile data.

10. The image processing device of claim 8 further including a second reception unit that receives delivery information about the third device from the external device, and wherein the forwarding unit forwards the data to the third device according to the delivery information.

11. A facsimile server having a plurality of functions and connected to a plurality of client computers via a Local Area Network, the facsimile server comprising:

a detection unit that detects an error in a function among the plurality of functions of the facsimile server;

a transmission unit that transmits detection result of the detection unit to one of the plurality of client computers; and

a disabling unit that prevents the function of the facsimile server, of which error is detected by the detection unit, from being used in response to instructions received from the one of the plurality of client computers.

12. The facsimile server of claim 11 further including:

a reception unit that receives data from a remote facsimile;

a printing unit that prints out the data received by the reception unit; and

a forwarding unit that forwards the data received by the reception unit to at least one of the plurality of client computers when the detection unit detects an error in the printing unit.

13. The facsimile server of claim 11 further including a connection unit that connects the facsimile server to a plurality of communication lines, and wherein the disabling unit prohibits use of one of the plurality of communication lines when the detection unit detects an error in said one of the plurality of communication line.

14. The facsimile server of claim 13, wherein the plurality of communication lines include PSTN and LAN.

15. The facsimile server of claim 13, wherein the plurality of communication lines include two or more PTSNs.

16. A method of controlling an image processing device capable of performing a plurality of functions, comprising the steps of:

A) detecting an error in a function among the plurality of functions of the image processing device;

B) transmitting detection result of the step A to an external device; and

C) preventing the function of the image processing device, of which error is detected at the step A, from being used in response to instructions received from the external device.

17. The method of claim 16 further including the steps of:

D) receiving data from an external source;

E) printing out the data received at the step D if an error is not detected in a printing function of the image processing device at the step A; and

F) forwarding the data received at the step D to the external device when an error is detected in the printing function at the step A.

18. The method of claim 16 further including the steps of:

G) connecting the image processing device to a plurality of communication lines; and

H) prohibiting use of one of the plurality of communication lines when an error is detected in said one of the plurality of communication lines.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the external device is a LAN-connected personal computer.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the external source is a remote facsimile machine, and the data received at the step D is facsimile data.